

## **Thank You Note from a Community Member to Tamaura Junior High School, Miyagi Prefecture**

I would like to write about how impressed I was by the attitudes and behaviors of the students of Tamaura Junior High School on 3.11.

As soon as I arrived at Tamaura Junior High School at just past 3:30 p.m., I noticed the students wearing corsages. I was told that they had been celebrating their graduation at the time the earthquake hit. Soon after, the tsunami came and surrounded the building, making it impossible for us to communicate with people outside the building. Then the night came. There was no electricity. We had to rely on a few flashlights. The water was too high for the National Defense Force to come and help us. Under the direction of the assistant principal, the students helped the people scattered around the school. Using science lightbulbs, the students guided those who needed to go to the bathroom. One student was stretching his arm at the wall near the stall to hold the lightbulb so he would not embarrass the person inside. I imagine how tiring it was for him.

The assistant principal said, "Boys, please come here and help transport these items." Some female students said, "What about us?" Then the principal said, "They are too heavy for you, girls." Then they said, "We can do it," and stood up to help.

There was no running water. We needed drinking water. We had some water thanks to the quick thinking of the students. As soon as the earthquake shaking stopped, realizing that water would stop at any moment, the students carried as much water as possible and poured it into large pots located in the kitchen. I was so impressed.

The morning came. The water was receding gradually. I realized that we went inside the building without taking our shoes off, and carried mud into the beautiful wood floor. As the staff was asking us to take off our shoes, some students were sweeping the dried mud on the floor.

When the water level became low enough, trucks brought rescue goods. The Junior High School students helped carry the goods along with adults and high school students.

It was a pitch black but clear night. I was frightened by the water in the school yard and was feeling helpless.

Although my family and house were okay, I often dream about the mound of debris, shelter packed with people, and families in agony who were searching for loved ones.

Looking at the changed scenery, I can't help wondering when our houses and fields will return to normal, and we can start living there. However, I see the light of hope when I think about the students at Tamaura Junior High School.

## Effects of the 2011 Kantō Tōhoku Earthquake Worksheet

**Directions:** List the effects of the disasters of March 11, 2011, in the appropriate categories, noting a source where you learned about each effect. In the last column, show whether that effect was local, global, or both. If the effect impacted places beyond Japan, indicate the locations affected.

<i><b>Political</b></i>	<i><b>Economic</b></i>	<i><b>Social/ Cultural</b></i>	<i><b>Emotional</b></i>	<i><b>Geographic/ Environmental</b></i>	<i><b>Technological</b></i>	<i><b>Local/Global/ Both?</b></i>

## Researching the Effects of the 2011 Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Accident

You will be working with a small group to research the effects of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami and the subsequent nuclear accident. You will be looking for effects that were felt locally (in Japan) and/or globally. When you identify an effect, you should add it to the correct category on the **Effects of the 2011 Kantō Tōhoku Earthquake Worksheet**, making a note on the source where you identified that effect.

When you finish your research, you will be synthesizing what you learned about the effects of the tragedies to create a photo essay, in which photographs will provide evidence to support a thesis statement about the effects of the tragedies. Thus, you should be on the lookout for photographs you think provide particularly important evidence of effects. Quotes can also be useful.

The list of websites below is a starting point for your research. You can locate additional sites by searching *Japan Times*, Google News, the BBC, CNN, or other news sites using such keywords as “**Japan Earthquake 2011**” or “**Fukushima nuclear accident.**”

- Breslow, Jason M. Four Years After Fukushima, Japan Makes a Return to Nuclear Power. *Frontline*. WGBH and PBS, August 11, 2015. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/four-years-after-fukushima-japan-makes-a-return-to-nuclear-power/>.
- Edge, Don. *Inside Japan's Nuclear Meltdown*. *Frontline*. WGBH and PBS, February 28, 2012. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/japans-nuclear-meltdown/>.
- Ferris, Elizabeth, and Mireya Solis. Earthquake, Tsunami, Meltdown—The Triple Disaster's Impact on Japan, Impact on the World. Brookings Institution, March 11, 2013. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/03/11-japan-earthquake-ferris-solis>.
- Goldman, Jason G. “Impact of the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on Animals and Environment.” *Scientific American*, March 22, 2011. <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/impact-of-the-japan-earthquake-and-tsunami-on-animals-and-environment/>.
- Iboshi, Kyle. “1 Million Tons of Tsunami Debris Still Floating in Pacific.” KGW.com, March 16, 2015. <http://legacy.kgw.com/story/news/investigations/2015/03/16/1-million-tons-of-tsunami-debris-still-floating-in-pacific/24868579/>.
- Japan Earthquake: Before and After. Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 2011. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/specials/japan-quake-2011/>.
- “Japan Earthquake and Tsunami: List of Impacts of Disaster.” *The Telegraph*, April 6, 2011. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/8431209/Japan-earthquake-and-tsunami-list-of-impacts-of-disaster.html>.

- *Japan's Killer Quake*. NOVA. WGBH and NOVA, February 27, 2013.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/japan-killer-quake.html>.
  - Kollipara, Puneet. "Fukushima Radiation May Have Little Long-Term Effect on Wildlife." *Chemical and Engineering News*, March 6, 2014.  
<http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/i10/Fukushima-Radiation-Little-Long-Term.html>.
  - Map: Impact of Japan Tsunami and Earthquake. Cable News Network, 2011.  
<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2011/japan.quake/map/>.
  - "Massive Earthquake Hits Japan." *Boston Globe*, March 11, 2011.  
[http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/03/massive\\_earthquake\\_hits\\_japan.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/03/massive_earthquake_hits_japan.html).
  - McFarland, Saga and Sarah Spaeth. "Tokyo Food Radiation Safety: It's Personal." Cable News Network, March 10, 2012.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/10/world/asia/japan-tokyo-radiation-food/>.
  - Oskin, Beth. "Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami 2011: Facts and Information." *Live Science*, May 7, 2015. <http://www.livescience.com/39110-japan-2011-earthquake-tsunami-facts.html>
  - Satellite Photos of Japan, Before and After the Quake and Tsunami. The New York Times, March 13, 2011.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/03/13/world/asia/satellite-photos-japan-before-and-after-tsunami.html>.
  - Taylor, Alan. "Japan Earthquake, 2 Years Later." *The Atlantic*, March 7, 2013.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2013/03/japan-earthquake-2-years-later-before-and-after/100469/>.
  - "Three Ways the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Is Still Having an Impact Today." *Washington Post*, March 12, 2015.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/03/12/3-ways-the-fukushima-nuclear-disaster-is-still-having-an-impact-today/>.
  - Villamez, Jason. Cotton Replaces Rice in Japan's Salt-Soaked Fields." PBS NewsHour Productions LLC, September 16, 2011.  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/world-july-dec11-cotton\\_09-16/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/world-july-dec11-cotton_09-16/).
  - *Voices from Japan Exhibit at ASIJ 2013*. American School in Japan.  
<https://sites.google.com/a/asij.ac.jp/voices-from-japan/home/voices-book>.
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- Waseda Bungaku's Charity Project: Japan Earthquake Charity Literature. Waseda Bungaku.  
[http://www.bungaku.net/wasebun/info/charity\\_en.html](http://www.bungaku.net/wasebun/info/charity_en.html).
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